

BE intervention

Mr. President,

Madam Special Representative,

Excellencies,

Belgium subscribes to the statements by the EU and the Group of Friends. We would like to thank the UK for organizing this debate, SRSG Patten for her remarks and we explicitly thank the civil society briefers for their powerful and insightful contributions.

Participation by civil society allows us to take into consideration the experiences of those impacted. Everything we say and do should fully take into account the needs and perspectives of survivors of this abhorrent crime. By doing that, it is clear that access to justice as well as sexual and reproductive health, rights and services should be an integral part of UN and national responses to CRSV. For survivors of CRSV, this means inter alia access to treatment for internal physical injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, emergency contraception, safe abortion and pre- and post-natal care.

Monsieur le Président,

Les présentations d'aujourd'hui et le rapport du Secrétaire général sont tout à fait déconcertants, notamment en ce qui concerne les niveaux extrêmement bas de conformité, y compris de la part des États. Il est urgent de combler cette lacune. Et qui dit mise en œuvre, dit aussi application et lutte contre l'impunité. Mon gouvernement soutient cet effort, entre autres, en finançant l'Equipe d'experts sur l'État de droit et la violence sexuelle dans les conflits, qui coopère avec les autorités de l'Ukraine et de la République démocratique du Congo, entre autres. Nous saluons leur engagement, les encourageons, ainsi que d'autres, à poursuivre dans cette voie et demandons aux autres États d'envisager de soutenir l'Equipe d'experts.

Moreover, while acknowledging that preventing and addressing CRSV is the primary responsibility of States, Belgium stresses the need to explore how CRSV can be connected to sanction policy and practices, for instance by considering a more systematic input of information from the Office of the Special Representative to the Sanction Committees of this Council.

Mr. President,

Finally, we should recognize that CRSV is rooted in structural gender inequality and harmful social norms. Belgium couldn't agree more with the SG's recommendations to tackle the root causes of CRSV by promoting women's and girl's leadership, by creating an enabling environment for women and girls active in public life and by stepping up to protect women politicians from violence or reprisals. Thank you.